

INFORMATION REPORT CD NO

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 17 Jul 51

SUBJECT Communist Officials' Reaction to
Whitsuntide Rally

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1ANO. OF ENCL'S.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO. 12 - 22 May 1951SUPPLEMENT TO [REDACTED] 25X1A
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. The Whitsuntide rally held in Vienna over the week end of 12-14 May 1951 served to point up the weakness of Communist youth organizations in Austria. The Central Directorate of the Free Austrian Youth (FOeJ) and the Central Committee of the Austrian Communist Party (KPOe) severely criticized Communist youth groups for their poor showing at the rally. Members and leaders of the FOeJ now expect a number of changes in the leadership of city, district and factory FOeJ groups. 25X1X
2. Although provincial FOeJ organizations attended the rally in good numbers, accompanied by non-members who wished to take the opportunity to travel to Vienna, only 25 to 30 per cent of the Vienna FOeJ membership participated in the parade which opened the rally on 12 May. Vienna participants were instructed to march twice in the parade. *
3. The Cultural Supervisor of USIA, a Soviet officer, spotted several groups on their second hour past the reviewing stand. ** He stated that the FOeJ, with its poor showing, could not be compared with youth organizations in Hungary, Czechoslovakia or Rumania. For this reason the Cultural Supervisor considered the USIA workers' donations to the rally as wasted funds. ***
4. On the evening of 12 May, a violent argument took place between Otto Brichacek, leader of the FOeJ, and Herbert Steiner, FOeJ National Secretary. Brichacek blamed Steiner and the Vienna FOeJ Director, Hans Breuning, for the poor performance of their organization in the Whitsuntide demonstration.
5. Immediately after the parade on 12 May, Hans Hochhaeuser, chief of the FOeJ group at AEG Union, was replaced in that position by his assistant. Brichacek dismissed Hochhaeuser because, out of 160 FOeJ members among AEG Union employees, only 22 persons marched in the parade.
6. On 22 May 1951, one Nevada, leader of the KPOe cell at Wagner-Bird A.G. "Werk A", was replaced as cell-leader by Arthur Muerenberger, manager of the machine-chasing division of Wagner-Bird A.G. Nevada was dismissed by the Vienna

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Directorate of the KPOe partly on the grounds that he failed to carry out instruction in connection with the Whiteside rally.

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment: USIA trucks transported Vienna participants from the Ringstrasse back to Stalinplatz, where they re-entered the parade.

25X1A ** [REDACTED] Comment: According to another source, usually reliable, the chief of the Zentraler Kulturreferat for USSR and the GUM is Lt. Col. Regulov. His deputy is Captain Ovsinikov. See [REDACTED]

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25X1A *** [REDACTED] Comment: According to the source of paragraph 1 above, every KPOe worker was required to contribute one hour's wages to a fund for the Whiteside rally during the week preceding the event. The same amount was to be collected again during the week beginning 20 May 1953, to offset the loss incurred by the KPOe in financing the meeting.

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